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Law

Reviving a spooky spirit

It would have made James Bond shiver. "We're looking for you special men and women who still have a spirit of adventure. There aren't many of you. One in a thousand maybe," read the ad in *The Washington Post*, placed last month by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) whose star has fallen to such a degree it is forced to advertise for spies. This has made William Brock, chairman of the Republican National Committee, more anxious than ever about the state of agency affairs. He cites the ad as further evidence that the CIA is demoralized and desperate.

In the past, recruits were found in the old-boy network, from discreet university interviews and referrals from other branches of government. But these sources have clearly dried up. Following the traumatic congressional investigations of the past few years—with their revelations of assassination plots, secret medical experiments and attempts to undermine constitutional democracies—the glamor has gone from the spy business. People just don't want to get involved anymore.

The implications are far greater than the newspaper ad might suggest. For, as Brock is quick to point out, America's intelligence agents have stopped delivering the goods. From Cuba to Korea, from Iran to Rhodesia, they have failed to get things right in the past two years. Now Brock has produced a scathing report saying the CIA and its mistakes are causing "confusion and chaos" in the nation's foreign policy. As a result the Republicans recently decided to call for a massive overhaul of intelligence operations and plan to make the subject a major issue in next year's presidential elections.

In politicizing the plight of the agency, in drawing attention to its shortcomings, Brock hopes to get the CIA a new deal with Congress and at the same time cash in on the right-wing policy drift that is evident throughout the U.S. today. He says: "Pressures and misguided initiatives by the Democratic-controlled Congress during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations have drastically reduced U.S. intelligence-

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